

## LOG OF MEETING

CPSA 6 (b) Cleared  
A 9/13/97  
Products Identified  
Excepted by  
Firms Notified,  
Comments Processed

**SUBJECT:**Candle Safety

**DATE OF MEETING:**August 11, 1997

**PERSON SUBMITTING LOG:**James F. Hoebel

**LOCATION:**CPSC, Bethesda, Maryland

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):**James F. Hoebel, Engineering  
Linda Smith, Epidemiology  
Chuck Smith, Economic Analysis

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):**Marianne McDermott, National Candle Association  
J. C. Edmond, General Wax & Candle Co.  
Thomas K. Kreilick, Candle Corporation of America  
Margaret Freeston, Brown & Freeston  
Edward J. Heiden, Heiden Associates, Inc.  
Elaine H. Besson, EHB Consulting, Ltd.  
David H. Baker, Lighter Association, Inc.  
Dave Haataja, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.  
Russ Batson, American Furniture Manufacturers Association  
Christine Eames, Product Safety Letter  
Debi Richardson, The Society of the Plastics Industry

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:** ASTM has planned a meeting on August 27, 1997, in West Conshohocken, PA, to consider organizing a new voluntary standard on candle safety. This meeting was requested by the National Candle Association (NCA) as a precursor to the ASTM meeting, to discuss the preparations being made for the August 27 meeting.

NCA has formed an industry committee to represent the industry related to a possible standard: Mr. Kreilick heads that industry committee. The industry wished to discuss their direction and several "dilemmas" they are facing. The industry has seen an "explosive" growth recently, which has probably contributed to the increase in incidents observed by CPSC related to candles. They are examining two injury data bases, NEISS and NFIRS, in addition to Neilsen market information and incident data from NCA members. They claimed that while frequency has gone up, the severity of incidents remains at the historical level unchanged. They have contracted with Heiden Associates to analyze the data.

Dr. Heiden plans to complete his analysis just before the August 27 meeting. So far, he has observed a low number of burn fatalities relative to other ignition sources (matches and lighters). Severity actually may be declining. Many of the injuries tend to be non-burns. The misuse factor is important. Dr. Heiden also plans to review incidents investigated by CPSC.

CPSC provided a written summary of the defect patterns observed in recent Section 15 reports. An analysis of available hazard data, including NEISS, NFIRS, and in-depth investigation information is also being prepared to provide to attendees at the August 27 meeting. This analysis should be an interesting companion to the analysis being prepared by Dr. Heiden.

Mr. Hoebel commented that consumers exposure to matches and lighters may be greater than for candles. Mr. Kreilick thinks that candles actually may have a broader household "penetration" than the other ignition sources.

Mr. Batson suggested that some fatalities involve power cutoff, leading to candle use and subsequent ignition of furnishings. One remedy would be to emphasize energy assistance for the economically disadvantaged.

One dilemma faced by the industry is coping with the various data sources and developing priorities. Mr. Hoebel responded that this would be a primary task of the ASTM subcommittee once organized. Another dilemma would be the effect of the large portion of the market represented by imported products. Also, it is very easy for someone to go into production of candles, so there may be many "mom and pop" operations entering and leaving the industry at any time.

Mr. Edmond noted that candle manufacturers do not usually manufacture the candle containers, and he emphasized the wide variability of container sizes and materials. Ms. Freeston suggested that container manufacturers should also be notified of the August 27 meeting for possible participation purposes.

The industry representatives also emphasized that candles don't "explode" as has been reported in some of the Section 15 reports: what happens is that glass containers crack, sometimes with a loud sound.

NCA feels they need to complete their evaluation before the meeting. They emphasized how important the CPSC analysis will be.

Mr. Hoebel commended the candle industry for their productive up-front activities. He stated that he did not expect the possible new ASTM subcommittee to begin writing a standard on August 27, but to make specific work assignments to address observed hazard patterns on an expedited basis.